

Amendments To The Claims:

Claim 1. (Previously Presented) A stent having a longitudinal axis comprising:
a non-woven tubular element having a plurality of openings therein, the tubular element comprising a plurality of interconnected struts which form at least one continuous pathway which extends all the way around the longitudinal axis, the interconnected struts having an outside surface facing outside the stent, an inner surface facing the longitudinal axis, and a side portion there between, the side portion having a thickness defined by the radial distance between the outer surface and the inner surface; the stent further comprising at least one of the struts being a frangible temporary strut, the frangible temporary strut restraining at least two of the interconnected struts from self-expansion, at least a portion of the stent constructed and arranged to self-expand upon breaking of the at least one frangible temporary strut, the thickness of a portion of the frangible temporary strut being substantially narrower than the thickness of any other portion of the frangible temporary strut.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1 wherein the portion of the stent which is constructed and arranged to self-expand upon breaking of the frangible temporary strut is made of a shape-memory material.

Claim 3. (Original) The stent of claim 2 wherein the shape memory material is from the group consisting of shape-memory metals and shape-memory plastics.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1 wherein the entirety of the stent is constructed and arranged to self-expand upon breaking of the frangible temporary strut.

Claim 5. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 1 wherein the plurality of interconnected members and the at least one frangible restraining member temporary strut are constructed from the same material.

Claim 6. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1 wherein the frangible temporary strut

is constructed from a different material than the interconnected struts.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1 comprising a plurality of frangible temporary struts, each of which extends between at least two adjacent interconnected-struts.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 7 wherein the frangible temporary struts are selected from at least one member of the group consisting of: frangible welds, frangible glues, frangible solder, and any combination thereof.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 7 wherein the frangible temporary struts are distributed uniformly throughout the stent.

Claim 10. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 7 wherein the frangible temporary struts are distributed about at least one end of the stent.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 7 wherein the stent is capable of withstanding an outward pressure of up to 2 atmospheres without breakage of the frangible temporary struts, the pressures selected from the group consisting of: radial pressure, axial pressure, and any combination thereof.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 7 wherein the stent is capable of withstanding an outward pressure of up to 5 atmospheres without breakage of the frangible temporary struts, the pressures selected from the group consisting of: radial pressure, axial pressure, and any combination thereof.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 7 wherein the stent is capable of withstanding an outward pressure of up to 12 atmospheres without breakage of the frangible temporary struts, the pressures selected from the group consisting of: radial pressure, axial pressure, and any combination thereof.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1 wherein the frangible temporary strut includes a circumferential extending component.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1 wherein the frangible temporary strut includes a curved portion.

Claim 16. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 7 wherein the plurality of frangible restraining member are arranged to form one or more helical bands.

Claim 17. (Withdrawn) A stent comprising a generally tubular body of non-woven elements and at least one frangible restraining member disposed about at least a portion of the tubular body, the at least one frangible restraining member made of the same material as the tubular body, at least a portion of the stent capable of self-expanding upon breaking of the at least one frangible restraining member.

Claim 18. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 17 wherein the generally tubular body and the at least one frangible restraining member are made of the same material.

Claim 19. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 18 wherein the generally tubular body and the at least one frangible restraining member are made of the same metals.

Claim 20. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 17 wherein the generally tubular body and the at least one frangible restraining member are made of different materials.

Claim 21. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 17 wherein the generally tubular body and the at least one frangible restraining member are made of different metals.

Claim 22. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 17 wherein the at least one frangible restraining member is helical wound about the tubular body.

Claim 23. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 17 wherein the at least one frangible restraining member is in the form of a band disposed at least partially about the circumference of the tubular member.

Claim 24. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 17 comprising a plurality of frangible restraining members.

Claim 25. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 17 wherein the at least one frangible restraining member is interweaved through the tubular body.

Claim 26. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 17 where the entirety of the stent is capable of self-expanding upon breaking of the at least one frangible restraining member.

Claim 27. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 17 wherein the stent is capable of withstanding radially and/or axially outward pressures of up to 2 atmospheres without breakage of the at least one frangible restraining member.

Claim 28. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 17 wherein the stent is capable of withstanding radially and/or axially outward pressures of up to 5 atmospheres without breakage of the at least one frangible restraining member.

Claim 29. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 17 wherein the stent is capable of withstanding radially and/or axially outward pressures of up to 12 atmospheres without breakage of the at least one frangible restraining member.

Claim 30. (Previously Presented) A stent having a longitudinal axis comprising a generally non-woven tubular body having interconnected struts which form at least one continuous pathway which extends around the longitudinal axis, the interconnected struts having an outside surface facing outside the stent, an inner surface facing the longitudinal axis, and a side portion there between, the side portion having a thickness defined by the radial distance between the

outer surface and the inner surface; the stent further comprising at least one frangible temporary strut disposed completely between at least two interconnected struts and restraining the interconnected struts from self-expansion, at least a portion of the stent capable of self-expanding upon breaking of the frangible temporary strut, the frangible temporary strut at least partially constructed from metal, the thickness of a portion of the frangible temporary strut being substantially narrower than the thickness of any other portion of the frangible temporary strut.

Claim 31. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 30 wherein the frangible restraining member is helical wound about the tubular body.

Claim 32. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 30 wherein the frangible restraining member is in the form of a band disposed about the circumference of the tubular member.

Claim 33. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 30 comprising a plurality of frangible temporary struts.

Claim 34. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 30 where the entirety of the stent is capable of self-expanding upon breaking of the frangible temporary strut.

Claim 35. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 30 wherein the stent is capable of withstanding outward pressures of up to 2 atmospheres without breakage of the frangible temporary strut, the pressures selected from the group consisting of: radial pressure, axial pressure, and any combination thereof.

Claim 36. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 30 wherein the stent is capable of withstanding outward pressures of up to 5 atmospheres without breakage of the frangible temporary strut, the pressures selected from the group consisting of: radial pressure, axial pressure, and any combination thereof.

Claim 37. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 30 wherein the stent is capable of

withstanding outward pressures of up to 12 atmospheres without breakage of the frangible temporary strut, the pressures selected from the group consisting of: radial pressure, axial pressure, and any combination thereof.

Claim 38. (Previously Presented) A non-woven stent formed of a plurality of interconnected struts and having a longitudinal axis, the interconnected struts having an outside surface facing outside the stent, an inner surface facing the longitudinal axis, and a side portion there between, the side portion having a thickness defined by the radial distance between the outer surface and the inner surface, the interconnected struts including at least one temporary strut and permanent struts, the permanent struts fully defining at least one opening in the stent, the at least one temporary strut restraining self-expansion of at least one permanent strut about the at least one opening, the at least one temporary strut but not the permanent struts breaking upon the application of a predetermined outward pressure to the stent, the thickness of a portion of the temporary strut being substantially narrower than the thickness of any other portion of the temporary strut, at least a portion of the stent constructed and arranged to self-expand upon breaking of the at least one temporary strut, no portion of the temporary strut overlapping any portion of the outer surface of the permanent struts being restrained the pressures selected from the group consisting of: radial pressure, axial pressure, and any combination thereof.

Claim 39. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 38 wherein the predetermined outward pressure is in excess of 2 atmospheres.

Claim 40. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 38 wherein the predetermined outward pressure is in excess of 12 atmospheres.

Claim 41. (Previously Presented) A method of delivering a stent to a desired bodily location comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a catheter with an expandable member and a stent as in claim 1 disposed thereabout;
- (b) inserting the stent and catheter in a bodily vessel and delivering the stent to the

desired bodily location;

(c) expanding the expandable member to break the at least one frangible temporary strut; and thereafter

(d) allowing the stent to self-expand.

Claim 42. (Original) The method of claim 41 further comprising the step of:

(c) seating the stent into the desired body location.

Claim 43. (Withdrawn) A method of delivering a stent to a desired bodily location comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a catheter with an expandable member and a stent as in claim 17 disposed thereabout;

(b) inserting the stent and catheter in a bodily vessel and delivering the stent to the desired bodily location;

(c) expanding the expandable member to break the at least one frangible restraining member; and thereafter

(d) allowing the stent to self-expand.

Claim 44. (Original) A method of delivering a stent to a desired bodily location comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a catheter with an expandable member and a stent as in claim 30 disposed thereabout;

(b) inserting the stent and catheter in a bodily vessel and delivering the stent to the desired bodily location;

(c) expanding the expandable member to break the at least one frangible restraining member; and thereafter

(d) allowing the stent to self-expand.

Claim 45. (Previously Presented) A method of delivering a stent to a desired bodily location comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a catheter with an expandable member and a stent as in claim 38 disposed thereabout;

(b) inserting the stent and catheter in a bodily vessel and delivering the stent to the desired bodily location;

(c) expanding the expandable member to break the at least one frangible temporary strut; and thereafter

(d) allowing the stent to self-expand.